

Whyte Ridge Baptist – November 15, 2026

The Gospel of Luke:

Seeing Jesus Clearly

Lord of the Sabbath
(Luke 5:33-6:11)

When Religion Gets in the Way

Unpacking Luke 5:33-6:11

1. **Jesus Brings Something New: The Presence of the Bridegroom** — Luke 5:33–39
    - The question about fasting.
    - Jesus as the Bridegroom.
    - The new wine and old wineskins.
    - The danger of becoming attached to the familiar.

2. **Jesus Reveals the True Purpose of the Sabbath** — Luke 6:1–5
    - The Sabbath as God's gift.
    - The disciples' actions in the grainfields.
    - David and the Bread of the Presence.
    - Jesus' declaration: Lord of the Sabbath.

3. **Jesus Demonstrates That Doing Good Is at the Heart of God's Intention** — Luke 6:6–11
    - The man with the withered hand.
    - The leaders' response.
    - Jesus' question about doing good or evil.
    - The healing and the restoration of the man.

Conclusion:

Questions for Discussion:

1. Jesus challenged the religious leaders because they had become so attached to their traditions that they were struggling to recognize what God was doing through Him.
Why do you think people (and churches) sometimes become more attached to the way they have always done things than to what God is calling them to do? Can you think of an example where a good tradition or preference might actually get in the way of following Jesus?

2. Jesus compared His presence to a wedding celebration, explaining that His arrival changed everything. He was announcing that the long-awaited Messiah had come.
What do you think it means to live with the joy of knowing that Jesus, the Bridegroom, has come? Is it possible to become so caught up in the routines and responsibilities of Christianity that we lose the joy of simply being with Jesus?

3. **Jesus declared, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." The Sabbath was intended to be God's gift to His people—a reminder that they were not slaves to endless work and that their lives were in His hands.**
Our world often measures our worth by how much we accomplish. Where do you find it most difficult to slow down and rest in God's presence? What might it look like for you to live more fully in the freedom and rest Jesus offers?

4. When Jesus encountered the man with the withered hand, He asked the religious leaders whether it was lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath. Their concern for religious regulations had become greater than their concern for a hurting person.
Why is it sometimes easier to focus on rules, routines, and religious activities than to notice and respond to the needs of people around us? Who might God be placing in your path right now who needs compassion, encouragement, or practical help?

5. Throughout this passage, Jesus reveals Himself as the Bridegroom, the Lord of the Sabbath, and the One who restores broken lives. The religious leaders saw Him through the lens of their own expectations, while Jesus invited them to see something greater.
Which of these three aspects of Jesus' ministry do you most need to embrace right now: His joy, His rest, or His restoring power? What might need to change in your life so that you can follow Him more fully and reflect His heart to others?